



What's Happening

Navy Fire & Emergency Services Newsletter

Protecting Those Who Defend America

May 2003

Email the Editor

George Morgan

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From the Director

By Bill Killen, CFO

[From the Director](#)

As our Navy is engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom, it is appropriate to say THANK YOU to the Navy Fire & Emergency Services team. Everyone from the newest recruit to Chief Charles Peters, in his 57th year of service, the 4000 plus members of the Navy fire service are keeping our installations safe from fire and other risks.

[Passing the Baton](#)

The DoD Awards program information has been out for several weeks. I encourage every Fire Chief to nominate his/her fire department and personnel for the DoD Awards Program. This year the Navy will recognize the first, second and third place winners in each category.

[Health and Wellness](#)

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Many positive things have taken place since our last newsletter and we plan to share these positive changes on a regular basis. As you see this edition of "What's Happening?" has a new look and format. Depending on popular choice, the name of the newsletter is likely to change. Some of the positive things underway are:

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- The F&ES office is staffed with a team of highly competent and experienced fire service managers. Their biographies appear elsewhere in this edition of "What's Happening?"
- The establishment of the Navy Fire and Emergency Services Virtual Technology Center is a web-based program to provide up-to-date information, educational and training opportunities. On-line this summer.
- The first draft of the Commanding Officers Guide to Navy Fire and Emergency Services should be completed 30 June. This guide provides commanding officers with information on Navy Fire & Emergency Services.
- An outstanding educational program is planned for the Navy Fire Officer Training Course in Dallas on Monday August 25th, and the inaugural Navy Fire & Emergency Services Awards luncheon to recognize Navy award winners on Tuesday August 26th.

[Hard Chargers of the Month](#)

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[Navy Fire & Emergency Services Awards Program](#)

Special Recognition is due to Fire Chiefs James Meagher, Paul Stewart, George Kennett, Assistant Chief Randy Hall and Deputy Assistant Director James Karcher on receiving their Chief Fire Officer Designation.

[Can You Hear Me Now?](#)

Please submit your DoD awards nominations as early as possible no later than 1 June 03. Keep up the great work you and your fire service team members do and be safe.

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Bill Killen, Director

Mr. Killen was appointed Director, Navy Fire & Emergency Services August, 1985. His fire service career spans 47 years, beginning as a volunteer at the age of 16 and becoming a career firefighter with the US Navy in 1960. He served on the Astronaut Rescue Team Kennedy Space Center Fire Department for the Apollo and Skylab programs. Mr. Killen co-authored The Kennedy Space Center Fire Department: The First Thirty Years (1994) and authored Navy & Marine Corps Fire Apparatus: 1836-2000" (2000). He is one of thirty contributing authors on a history of the American Fire Service to be published this fall. He's a 28 year member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and founded the Federal & Military Fire Service Section, as well as serving on many IAFC committees. Mr. Killen served as the Federal Representative on the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and is the President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation. He represents the Navy as a member of the DoD Fire and Emergency Services Working Group. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration from University College, University of Maryland, holds a Fire Officer IV certification, and is designated a Chief Fire Officer by the Commission on Chief Fire Officer Designation. He lives with his wife Carole in Bowie, Maryland. They have four children and seven grandchildren. He enjoys fishing, hunting, writing and his 1923 Stoughton 350 GPM pumper.



Jim Karcher, Assistant Director

Mr. Karcher began public service as an officer in the United States Navy with assignments in ships and aviation training squadrons, on Navy and joint headquarters staffs and as a bombardier-navigator flying in A-6 Intruders. He deployed to Vietnam, southwest Asia, the North Atlantic, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean theaters. While assigned to the CNO staff at the Pentagon, he became a volunteer firefighter in a Washington, DC suburb, where he has served in various capacities as a volunteer chief officer for twelve years and remains active. After retiring from the Navy, Mr. Karcher became the head of fire protection for the United States Coast Guard, advancing to the position of Chief of the Shore Safety and Environmental Health Division at Coast Guard Headquarters. He represented the Coast Guard for over ten years as an associate member of the DoD Fire and Emergency Services Working Group. He earned a Masters Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, is an EMT-B, holds a Fire Officer IV certification, and is designated a Chief Fire Officer by the Commission on Chief Fire Officer Designation. He lives with his wife Elaine in Arlington, Virginia. Jim's responsibility in addition to Deputy Director of the Navy Fire and & Emergency Services will be Wildland, Accreditation, and Marine and Shipboard issues.



Rick Brockman, Assistant Director

Rick Brockman comes to us from Point Mugu, California where he served for six years as the Chief Fire Inspector and Fire Chief at CBC Port Hueneme and later, as the first Fire Chief for the newly established Navy Base Ventura County. He is a former president of the Ventura County Fire Chief's Association and is nationally certified as a Fire Officer IV, Fire Inspector II, HAZMAT Incident Commander and California HAZMAT Technician. Prior to Ventura County, Rick was the Assistant Fire Chief at Long Beach Naval Shipyard and was the recipient of the Charles B. Gindele award as the Fire Inspector at NSA Souda Bay, Crete, Greece. A retired Deputy Fire Chief with the U.S. Air Force, Rick holds a B.S. in Management and Finance, an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science, and is a 2002 graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Rick's primary responsibility in the Navy Fire & Emergency Service Office will be Emergency Management, CBRNE/WMD and HAZMAT.



George Morgan, Assistant Director

George Morgan recently retired is a Battalion Fire Chief with the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services located in Maryland. Starting his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter he was hired in 1975 with Howard County Fire Department. His assignments included operations, training, and life safety. Mr. Morgan assisted in the developed the Howard County career fire academy, the Special Operations team, monthly Company In-service Training, pre-incident planning and inspection program, and the Fire Investigation realignment project. He was also a contributor the department's successful CFAI Accreditation process. He worked part-time for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute as a field instructor and industrial training specialist and was awarded the Instructor of the year in 1993. His training and certifications include, National Registry EMT-P, Fire Officer IV, Fire Inspector III, Fire Instructor III, Hazardous Materials Technician and Incident Commander. He was an author and designer of the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute's Confined Space Rescue training program in 1983 and the Hazardous Material Technician course in 1993. George holds a Bachelor of Sciences Degree from the University of Maryland in Fire Administration, and a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. George's primary responsibility in the Navy Fire & Emergency Service Office will be Structural, EMS, Rescue, Web sites and the Newsletter.



Carl Glover, Assistant Director

Carl Glover comes to the Navy Fire and Emergency Services Team from the Air Force Fire Protection Office. During his 26-year active duty tour in the fire service he served at various levels to include HQ Air Force Fire Division Program Manager, Command Program Manager, Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Asst Chief for Training, Station Chief, Fire Prevention, and Firefighter. He has earned an Associate Degree in Fire Science Technology and many DoD IFSAC Certifications to include: Fire Officer IV, Fire Instructor III, Fire Inspector III, Hazmat Incident Commander, and Airport Firefighter. Additionally, he has attended many specialty related training courses. Carl's primary responsibility in the Navy Fire & Emergency Service Office will be Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) issues.



Steve Cox, Assistant Director

Steve Cox has been a volunteer firefighter for over 34 years. He served three years as Chief of the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company after serving all subordinate fire line offices. Mr. Cox served as President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association 1996-1997, President of the Association of the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services of Harford County 1997-1998, and President of the Norrisville Volunteer Fire Company 1998-2000. Mr. Cox holds an Associates Degree from Harford Community College in Law Enforcement, a Bachelors Degree from National Louis University in Behavioral Sciences and a Masters Degree from National Louis University in management. Professionally, he is manager of the Field Operations Section of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, University of Maryland. He is MFRI's Alternate to the Maryland Fire Service Personnel Qualifications Board. He represents the volunteer emergency services personnel. Steve's primary responsibility in the Navy Fire & Emergency Service Office will be Training, Fire Investigation, Fire Inspection, Public Education, Fire Officer Development and Certification.

Steve remains active with the MSFA currently chairing the budget committee. In addition Steve represents the National Volunteer Fire Council on the NFPA 1720 committee. He enjoys boating and spending time in Ocean City and cherishes the time playing with his four grandchildren

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Passing the Baton



Outgoing Deputy Director Kevin King (left) discusses program issues with the new Deputy Director of Navy Fire & Emergency Services, Jim Karcher. Kevin departed the Navy Team in April to return to the Marines as Manager, Fire Protection Programs. Jim joins the Navy Team from his previous position as Chief of the Shore Safety and Environmental Health Division at Coast Guard Headquarters.

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Health and Wellness

Firefighters "may be at increased risk of testicular cancer"

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Firefighters may be at increased risk of testicular cancer, according to the results of a German study.

Researchers from the University hospital of Essen conducted a study involving 269 men with testicular cancer and 797 men, matched for age and region, who did not have the disease.

All the men provided details of their occupational history and any family history of testicular cancer.

The researchers found that 1.5 per cent of the men with testicular cancer had worked as firefighters at some point in their careers, compared with just 0.5 per cent of the comparison group.

After taking into account other risk factors, such as a history of cryptorchidism - a condition in which either one or both testicles fail to descend fully into the scrotum - the researchers calculated that being a fireman increased the risk of testicular cancer more than four-fold.

Writing in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine, the authors of the report said, "Although the association between firefighting and testicular cancer risk is based on only small numbers of exposed subjects in our study, the finding is consistent with a recent cohort study from New Zealand."

They concluded that the occupational hazards experienced by firemen may account for the increase in risk.

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Skills Review

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) developed this course for the

Department of Energy (DOE) under the direction of Fluor Daniel Fernald, DOE's environmental remediation contractor for the Fernald Environmental Management Project. The goal of this contract was to provide needed information and a method to train fire departments and other emergency responders who may be called upon to respond to accidents involving radioactive materials along DOE transportation corridors and routes.

The training material contained in this course is available without restriction. However, please be aware that the representation of certain concepts in the course could be subject to differing professional and personal opinions. We caution that knowledge, experience and sound judgement be used by anyone attempting to translate these materials into instructional programs for emergency responders and others.

We encourage you to utilize this material, as appropriate, in your training programs and to make these resources available to other emergency services organizations that reveal a genuine need for such information.

<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/fire/fro/fro.html>

We have included PDF files for Chapters 6 & 7.

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NFIRS

The Many Uses of the National Fire Incident Reporting System

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is an information system initiated and supported by the U.S. Fire Administration. The U.S. Fire Administration developed NFIRS as a means of assessing the nature and scope of the fire problem in the U.S. The system first came on line in 1976, and since then it has grown in both participation and use. This report is an attempt to capture the many ways that NFIRS data are used and the many types of organizations that benefit from its availability. These organizations include:

- agencies within the fire service itself, such as local fire departments, State Fire Marshal's offices and the U.S. Fire Administration;
- other agencies of the federal government, such as the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and
- private industry organizations, including national associations for home appliance product manufacturers and the hotel and motel industry, insurance companies, attorneys and many others.

Because access to NFIRS is so widespread it is impossible to report every use of the data. Instead, this report will give readers a sense of the many uses and users of the information available in NFIRS.

From "Uses of NFIRS", FA 171 / June 1997

Download the whole report:

www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/nfirsuse.pdf

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Safety

By Carl Glover

Air Force Technical Order 00-105E-9, Aerospace Emergency Rescue and Mishap Response Information (Emergency Services) was recently updated. Safety Supplement 2 for Revision 8 was released on 26 Mar 03 (see attached cover sheet). Activities that use the technical manual should check their on-hand documents to ensure they have the correct version of the technical manual (basic document dated 30 Sep 02). The basic manual (revision 8) can be downloaded from this Web Site:

<http://www.robins.af.mil/logistics/lgeda/documents/to00-105E-9.htm>

Additionally, the above Web Site has a link to the Safety Supplements for revision 8 or Safety Supplements can be downloaded from this Web Site:

Publications:

<http://www.afcesa.af.mil/Directorate/CEX/Fire/default.html>

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Hard Chargers of the Month

Each newsletter will feature a Navy Fire Department. Our first feature department is Federal Fire Department Hawaii. Please use this format as the standard, and send information and pictures featuring your department to our Editor:

morganga@navfac.navy.mil. For each newsletter we will select the feature department from the information that you have provided.

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Certification Program

By Steve Cox



The purpose of the DoD Fire & Emergency Services Certification Program is to enhance the training process, improve performance, and strengthen the professionalism of all DoD Fire and Emergency Services personnel. The program measures the competence of DoD Fire and Emergency Services personnel and provides a quality control element for the training process. These measurements and quality control elements are accomplished through the administration of standardized written and performance evaluations. This comprehensive program uses the

National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) national consensus of professional qualifications standards.

The program objectives are:

1. Satisfy training requirements through a nationally accredited training and certification program.
2. Provide quality fire and emergency services for DoD assets.
3. Improve the quality of training for all DoD Fire and Emergency Services personnel.
4. Standardize the quality and efficiency of training programs.
5. Provide national professional recognition for DoD Fire and Emergency Services personnel.
6. Provide a comprehensive and fair career progression program for both military and civilian DoD Fire and Emergency Services personnel.
7. Encourage and enhance the professional development of DoD Fire and Emergency Services personnel.

Certification Levels	Navy Issued CY02
Airport Firefighter	312
Confined Space Rescue	8
Driver Operator Aerial	185
Driver Operator ARFF	161
Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply	71
Driver Operator Pumper	233
Driver Operator Tiller	1
Fire Fighter I	148
Fire Fighter II	258
HazMat Awareness	434
HazMat Incident Commander	251
HazMat Incident Commander T-t-T	3
HazMat Operations	490
HazMat Technician	0 *
HazMat Technician T-t-T	0 *
Inspector I	312

Inspector II	205
Inspector III	25
Instructor I	197
Instructor II	131
Instructor III	94
Officer I	198
Officer II	193
Officer III	78
Officer IV	42
Rescue Technician	1
Total Certificates Issued	4,031

* Data not provided

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Navy Fire & Emergency Services Awards Program

By Carl Glover

The Director of Navy Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) will annually recognize Navy fire organizations and personnel for outstanding achievement. The Navy award categories will mirror the DoD F&ES award categories, i.e., Fire Department of the Year, Civilian Fire Officer of the Year, Military Fire Officer of the Year, Civilian Fire Fighter of the Year, Military Fire Fighter of the Year, and Fire Fighter Heroism Award. The Heroism Award can be an individual or a team nomination. Regional commands and/or individual fire protection organizations are urged to nominate departments, teams, and individuals for the awards in this program. Navy winners will be recognized at the Navy and Marine Corps Awards and Recognition Luncheon held during the annual fire conference and our winners automatically become the Navy nominees for the DoD Fire & Emergency Services annual awards.

The Navy Fire & Emergency Services program office will be publicizing the program to include reminders in the F&ES newsletter, providing nomination procedures and format, as well as establishing the timelines for submissions. Additionally, we anticipate posting awards program information on a Web Site. By providing the information with sufficient lead-time supervisors will have the opportunity to mentor personnel for these awards. Each activity is encouraged to recognize their departments and personnel for the Navy F&ES awards as well as other recognition programs available for your personnel (i.e., GEICO Public Service Awards, IAFC Benjamin Franklin Fire Service Award for Valor, NFPA awards, etc). Please keep the F&ES program office advised of your award recipients (local, regional, or national) throughout the year and we will publicize their accomplishments in the F&ES newsletter.

We have recently relayed information (nomination procedures, forms, criteria, etc) by email concerning these awards, i.e., Fire Chief of the Year (Sponsored by Fire Chief Magazine), Benjamin Franklin Fire Service Award for Valor (sponsored by IAFC and Motorola), Harvey Grant Excellence in Rescue Award (sponsored by IAFC, Mosby and Holmatro), Fire Service Award for Excellence (sponsored by IAFC and U.S. Safety & Engineering), and the Life Safety Achievement Award (sponsored by Grinnel Mutual Reinsurance Co.). Please contact Carl Glover if you need information or format concerning these awards or the Navy/DoD awards program.

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Can You Hear Me Now?

Information is not the same as communication and communication is not the same as information. Information is the currency of communication. Just as the flow of money creates wealth, so the rapid and steady flow of strategic information enriches and empowers an organization. Organizations must nurture and sustain the systematic flow of credible, sensible, timely, and relevant information - up, down, and across their structure - so as to bring all their resources to bear on the execution of their strategic intent. This newsletter reflects just one of the many opportunities that will present in the near future, designed to improve the dissemination of information throughout the Navy Fire & Emergency Services. This information must, above all else, be credible. The cornerstone of credibility is integrity. It is the Navy Fire and Emergency Services leadership's responsibility to commit to providing credible information that is both timely and relevant.

The previous press schedule for the What's Happening was quarterly. With the need for instant information ever increasing, the editions of this newsletter may be published monthly. Upon evaluation of the schedule, and feedback from our clients this frequency may be changed to every two weeks or reduced to bi-monthly.

Listening is the fiber of good communication. After three editions an opportunity to evaluate this effort will be solicited for you, the reader, to provide your feedback and suggestions. The staff will listen to your constructive comments, suggestions, and ideas for improving this information sharing initiative and where possible make the appropriate changes.

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Regional Bytes

A high-performance system of sharing information depends on the timely, energetic, capable participation of members throughout an organization. Each organizational member has a role in communications, some have multiple roles and responsibilities. These responsibilities should explicitly address both receiving and sending information as well as building relationships conducive to rapid, credible, strategic information sharing.

The Navy Fire And Emergency Services member's communication responsibilities are no different than any other successful organizational requirements. That being said, recognizing each employee's vital role in information sharing, the newsletter staff is seeking regional/site reporters to assist in the gathering of timely, accurate, and mission critical information reflective of the individual, shift, station, department, and regional efforts. This information can be parlayed through the written word or through the magic of photography (preferably transmitted through the electronic format). If you are embarrassed about your writing skills, or your camera skills are challenged, do not let that stop you from getting your organizational message to us. No doubt you will be harder on yourself than your peers would be so send it in and together we can complete our organizational responsibilities to get the Navy Fire and Emergency Services message out.

NAS Patuxent River Receives Accreditation



Fire Chief George Kennet, Director Bill Killen, Assistant Chief Willy Watts and Captain Dane Swanson, USN were on hand for the ceremony.

The Navy Fire & Emergency Services Advisory Board



The Navy Fire & Emergency Services Advisory Board met this spring at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute part of the University of Maryland.

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New Apparatus

New Apparatus for NAS Patuxent River



NAS Patuxent River has recently received two new Pierce structural firefighting pumpers.



NAS Patuxent River has also taken delivery of a new Rosenbauer ARFF crash vehicle.

Service Life Extension Program

By David Allen

Each fiscal year, the Transportation Equipment Management Centers (TEMCs) receive funds under the Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) to assist the activities in overhauling/reconditioning selected high-cost, Navy-owned Civil Engineering Support Equipment (CESE). Navy Fire Fighting Equipment falls into this category. Since procurement dollars have become scarce over the years, this is an option that the activities have to extend the useful life of their equipment.

All appropriated-fund activities are eligible to submit high-cost CESE for SLEP funding consideration. These funds are not available for Navy Working Capital Funded (NWCFF) activities.

Regular maintenance or cosmetic repairs will not be considered. Examples of repairs appropriate for SLEP consideration are mechanical and electrical upgrades, plumbing systems to include pumps, and cab conversions for structural trucks per NFPA standards for open cab designs. The main function of SLEP is to "Extend the Life" of the piece of equipment. Equipment nominated for SLEP funding should be overage and within the activity's Inventory Objective (IO).

If areas have been regionalized, the Regional Transportation Manager/Regional Fire Chief should coordinate and submit prioritized recommendations for all sites under their area of responsibility.

If any equipment was nominated for SLEP funding in FY03 but was not funded, the equipment will automatically be added to FY04's list for funding consideration if it meets the above criteria.

How can your equipment be considered for SLEP money?

1. Submit a request to your TEMC representative. Include USN, equipment type, scope of work, and a written estimate for repairs.
2. When a project is approved by LANTDIV, it is important that the following information is submitted to the TEMC in order to expedite obligation of funds:

- a. Funding amount requested
- b. Activity Comptroller Point of Contact (Name), Code, Mailing Address, telephone number and fax number.
- c. Estimated completion time frame
- d. Whether the work is to be accomplished in-house or by an outside contractor.

For this on going program, activities should be thinking about possible candidates and setting priorities for those that are most important. Also, activities should have estimates in hand toward the end of the FY in case there are funds available for "swing" projects. These are projects that did not get done in the initial program, but can be accomplished utilizing year-end-money. The reason for having estimates ready is to be able to obligate the money on very short notice.

For additional information regarding the SLEP program, contact David Allen at DSN 262-4017 Com (757) 322-4017 or email allendd@efdlant.navfac.mil.

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Smart Practices

Using GIS to Enhance Emergency Response Operations

From FEMA Smart Practices Spotlight, March 26, 2003.

Located in the southwestern part of North Carolina, Cabarrus County is home to a wide range of businesses and industry. In a time where budget constraints are impacting jurisdictions at all levels, Cabarrus County has found a way to provide its 911 centers with more accurate information and digital photographs. These functions will aid in the dispatching of emergency services such as fire, EMS, rescue and law enforcement.

Coordinated by the County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department and funded primarily by the Sheriff's Department, the project involves verifying every address in the county, assigning a Longitude/ Latitude coordinate to each primary structure, verifying street centerlines, and storing an image of each improved property in the county.

The project initially evolved from the need to correct and verify addressing in preparation for implementation of Enhanced 911 (E911) rules, as mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). E911 rules seek to improve the effectiveness and reliability of wireless 911 service by providing 911 dispatchers with additional information on calls from wireless telephones and improving accuracy in finding the locations of wireless calls, within a 50 to 100 meter radius.

The experience and responsibility of county-wide mapping belongs to the GIS Department, which is spearheading the project initiated by the Sheriff's Department. In consultation with the Sheriff's Department, the project was conceived to include the images and geographic coordinates of each property in the county. When the project was first discussed, the County GIS Manager saw the potential for additional benefits and began involving other county departments. Now, what started out as a project for one department has come to involve four departments and a nearby county.

There are additional benefits of the project, as well. For example, the digital photographs will improve the quality of visual data used by county real estate appraisers, allow verification and correction of any addressing discrepancies, and assist emergency management in preparing recovery reports required in the aftermath of disasters and emergencies.

"The inclusion of imaging is very important to law enforcement and EMS," Captain Phil Patterson of the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Department said. "Being able to locate a 911 caller is critical to our emergency service system, because it reduces the amount of time it takes emergency services to locate and arrive at the 911 caller's home or business."

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What's In A Name?

By Rick Brockman



My first exposure to the "Federal Fire" phenomena was at Long Beach Naval Shipyard in 1995. The rigs were marked FEDERAL FIRE LONG BEACH, as were our badges, patches and sweatshirts. Someone had even placed white medical tape over the US NAVY on the license plates of our vehicles. When I asked why the department wasn't called the Long Beach Naval Shipyard FD, you'd have thought I'd insulted everyone's mother. "We aren't in the Navy, we're civilians!" Foolishly, I pressed the question, "who pays you?" I asked, assuming pay statements would be headed by a bold DEPARTMENT OF NAVY. When it

was pointed out to me that the pay statements read DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, and there was a clear feeling that any further questions might familiarize me with the workers compensation unit, I shut up and accepted my Federal Fire regalia.

A few years later I was involved in the consolidation of two Navy fire departments, each formerly named for the installation they protected, when the issue of a name for the newly consolidated department arose. Many names were suggested but any suggestion containing the word NAVY was summarily rejected. After some controversy the name FEDERAL FIRE was adopted. The rationale in this case was basically the same as at Long Beach but also addressed the fact that the fire department protected Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force assets and should therefore reflect that diversity. That made sense to me and with the Command's endorsement we officially became FEDERAL FIRE.

In hindsight I believe that was a mistake.

A former Navy Fire Chief from San Diego takes credit for being the first to use the title FEDERAL FIRE DEPARTMENT after nine Navy and Marine Corps fire departments were consolidated into a single organization in the early 1980's. The rationale was the same; the Navy was simply one of his customers, not his sovereign.

The fallacy in that logic is that the Navy holds the purse strings, and he who holds the money holds the crown.

Every Navy Fire Chief is competing hard for the ever-dwindling BOS dollar. They are slaving over cost-benefit analyses, risk assessments, and a never-ending stream of data calls in an effort to justify their existence.

I have to wonder if the pressure would be as intense if our uniforms and rigs said NAVY FIRE and we took the white tape off the license plates. Has our effort to distance ourselves from the active duty folks been counterproductive? How much ownership does a commanding officer feel for an organization with a different identity than every other agency on the base? (Have you ever seen a Federal Security Department, Federal Safety Department or Federal Public Works Department?) A name is certainly not a recognized metric in the funding process, but I believe it absolutely impacts the attitudes of our Navy leaders.

One of the most common complaints I hear in Navy (Federal) fire departments is that the Navy doesn't seem to recognize our value and, in some cases, doesn't treat us as a part of the team. I have to wonder if we don't seem a bit hypocritical when we ask to be treated as an integral member of the team, but refuse to wear the team colors.

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Accreditation Security

By Fire Chief Paul Stewart, NAS Jacksonville

If "Loose Lips Sink Ships" just think what a manual highlighting the weaknesses of an entire fleet could do. Fortunately that is just what Chief Paul Stewart, Jacksonville Naval Air Station, considered as he examined the potential security risks associated with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) "Fire Department Self Assessment" process. In a continuing effort to increase the professionalism and efficiency of the

Department of Defense Fire & Emergency Services, Department of Defense Instruction 6055.6 directs that all DoD agencies must complete the "Self Assessment" process and achieve "Accredited Agency" status through CFAI.

The "Fire Department Self Assessment" process as created by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) provides a means for Fire Departments to appraise their operations and procedures, and then measure the organizational performance in accordance to an internationally accepted professional standard. This process results in establishment of various operational/functional metrics, providing a "yardstick" for the Agency to compare their organizational progress towards providing the level of service defined by various statutes, laws, standards, regulations, instructions, and generally accepted best professional business practices. The end result of the "Self Assessment" effort is creation of a manual that addresses all categories of the established criteria, and highlights successes and shortfalls for each as it pertains to all the Fire Department organizational components. Further, the documentation identifies response standards and actions associated with "common" fire service emergencies, as well as Weapons of Mass Destruction (CBRNE) capabilities/directives.

The process includes a requirement for Agencies in the final stages of the accreditation process to submit its "Self Assessment" document/manual, and other specific "strategic" documentation to a CFAI approved/identified "Peer Assessor Team Leader". Standard Internet E-mail is the medium oftentimes used to transmit the Agencies document, or parts of it. This E-mail process is commonly repeated numerous times as the Team Leader works with his/her "Team Members" and the Agency Representative.

Based on the current world atmosphere and this country's military efforts against terrorism, it is Chief Stewart's observation that much of the required self-assessment Accreditation documentation represents "Operational Security" information that is "sensitive". This information could prove beneficial to enemies of the United States of America given that these documents identify the Agency's strength's, weakness', and emergency procedures. This security concern comes with justified merit as there have been numerous reports of incidents that have been linked to a pattern of people trying to obtain critical information about department operational procedures and staffing without providing any of their own personal information.

Not willing or wanting to scuttle the Accreditation process yet still very concerned with this potential security breach, Chief Stewart offered the following recommendations to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International as possible solutions to the dilemma of continuing in the process of Accreditation while still remaining within operation security measures.

- Notify the CFAI Executive Assistant of this concern/requirement for their awareness and effort.
- The Department of Defense and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Information Center (CIPIC) should forward an immediate notification to all fire departments directing that documentation created by the "Self Assessment" process shall not be transmitted via non-secure modes, identifying that the document(s) shall be considered classified as "sensitive" or "For Official Use Only" based on "Operational Security" standards.
- That the Department of Defense create a standardized "foreword" document that would be required as "the first page" of each manual created identifying to the recipient/reader the process for protection/destruction of the documentation included in the manual. This document should be incorporated in all Fire Departments participating in the CFAI Accreditation effort both as an update and as a continuing practice.
- That the CFAI would be requested to consider including this requirement to help all

future Fire Department Accreditation Candidates conform with "Operations Security" requirements while participating in the "Self Assessment" and "Accreditation" effort.

The CIPIC recommends that all departments should be on alert for any persons attempting to collect sensitive information. The CIPIC also advises that all department facilities, apparatus, and equipment should be properly secured when not in use. Finally, incidents that may breach operational security such as these should be reported immediately to local authorities and the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) using one of the following points of contact:

1. NIPC - Voice: 202-323-3204/3205/3206, Fax: 202-323-2079, E-Mail: nipc.watch@fbi.gov
2. Your local FBI office - Web: <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm>
3. U. S. Fire Administration - Voice: 301-447-1325, E-Mail: usfacipc@fema.gov, Fax: 301-447-1034, Mail: Room J-247, 16825 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

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Name the Newsletter

Name the Newsletter Contest

We are soliciting inputs to name the Navy F&ES Newsletter. Our newsletter will be published at least quarterly (more frequently as necessary). Please send your nomination for the newsletter name to the Navy F&ES Program Office (NLT 30 Jun 03). The Program Office will select five nominations. The five nominations will appear in the next newsletter, and Navy F&ES personnel will be able to vote for their favorite name for the Newsletter.

Please send nominations to the Editor: morganga@navfac.navy.mil

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Personnel News

In future Newsletters we would like to include a section to recognize Navy fire service promotions and retirements. Please submit information or possible articles with appropriate details (i.e., name, rank and position title, department name, years of service for retirements) to the F&ES program office. Additionally, please let us know about Navy fire service personnel who have a significant illness or have passed away. We will include those folks in a "Thoughts and Prayers" section of the Newsletter.

Please send comments to the Editor: morganga@navfac.navy.mil

Thingamajig



Be the first to name this appliance and describe its purpose
and big things might happen, but probably not.

Please send nominations to the Editor: morganga@navfac.navy.mil

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